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Dated: 6/2/05

Signature: Michael J. Doherty  
(Michael J. Doherty)

Docket No.: SPRINGS 3.0-056 CIP  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Strand et al.

Application No.: 10/634,305

Group Art Unit: 3634

Filed: August 5, 2003

Examiner: D. M. Purol

For: CORDLESS BLINDS

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed April 28, 2005, setting forth an election of Species requirement in the above-identified application. In the Office Action, the Examiner required an election of a single disclosed Species for prosecution on the merits to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- Species I of the window blind drawn to Figures 1-37.
- Species II of the window blind drawn to Figures 38-49.
- Species III of the window blind drawn to Figures 50-51A.
- Species IV of the window blind drawn to Figure 51B.
- Species V of the window blind drawn to Figure 52.
- Species VI of the window blind drawn to Figure 53.
- Species VII of the window blind drawn to Figure 54.
- Species VIII of the window blind drawn to Figure 55.
- Species IX of the window blind drawn to Figures 56-58B.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's election of Species requirement and assert that the embodiments shown in FIGS. 50-53 are in the same Species and are not patentably distinct from one another. All of the embodiments shown in FIGS. 50-53 have a head rail, a bottom rail that is movable relative to the head rail and an intermediate rail that is movable

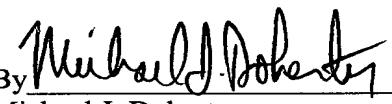
relative to the head rail and the bottom rail. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-14, 16-22, 34-38 and 40-42 are readable upon the single Species shown in FIGS. 50-53.

In order to completely respond to the election of Species requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species III, corresponding to claims 1-14, 16-22, 34-38 and 40-42. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application corresponding to the non-elected claims.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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